



Kimberly A. Foster
Executive Director

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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TRULA J. WORTHY-CLAYTON, VICE CHAIR

APPROVED MINUTES

The Special Meeting (**Retreat**) of the Commission for Children and Families was held on Monday, **October 6, 2008**, at the Women's City Club of Pasadena, 160 North Oakland, Pasadena. **Please note that these minutes are intended as a summary and not as a verbatim transcription of events at this meeting.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (Quorum Established)

Carol O. Biondi	Steven M. Olivas, Esq.
Patricia Curry	Tina Pedersen
Ann Franzen	Stacey Savelle
Susan Friedman	Adelina Sorkin
Helen Kleinberg	Martha Trevino Powell
Dr. La-Doris McClaney	Trula J. Worthy-Clayton

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT (Excused/Unexcused)

Rev. Cecil Murray	Dr. Harriette F. Williams
Sandra Rudnick	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Sorkin, Chair.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Self Introductions were made around the table.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda for the October 6, 2008 Special "Retreat" meeting was unanimously approved.

IV. OVERVIEW OF COMMISSION 2008 RETREAT

Commissioner Olivas gave a brief introduction of the Agenda items to be discussed at the Retreat.

V. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE OVERVIEW

Miguel Santana, Deputy, Chief Executive Office (CEO) over the Children and Families' Well-Being Cluster, provided a brief summary of his background, experience, work history, and his current role as Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DCEO). He informed the Commission of efforts through the CEO to work across clusters and informed them that the DCEOs meet with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Bill Fujioka, every Monday to discuss collaboration between clusters, and that the concerns about the need to increase integration are not isolated, but exist across the board. They have been brainstorming and strategizing to address the issues; and he sees his role as DCEO as essentially connecting the dots between Departments. He stated that he wants Departments to have a certain level of accountability and they will be evaluated on outcomes. He is attempting to bring the Departments together in a seamless plan to connect to a larger continuum, to institutionalize change, to help generate new ideas and find new ways of doing things.

Several Commissioners commented on the need for the county to connect with the community and include the Commission in the planning process. Miguel stated that they are welcome to attend cluster meetings or meet with him personally and gave out his e-mail address and telephone number. He handed out his Strategic Plan Goals and asked the Commission to give input. Miguel talked about the big picture being how to improve services and stressed the importance of measuring effectiveness and relevance. He stated that the Commission should not only present the problems, but also some solutions on how to fix the problems. He stated that it would also be helpful for the Commission to focus on five things that they care about beyond the day-to-day issues and show how the Commission has worked to further the goals of the county. The Commission asked for a liaison in the DCEO's office as a mechanism for the Commission to give input. Miguel responded that he would attend the Commission's meetings on a quarterly basis to give them the opportunity to share concerns, problems, and constructive recommendations.

VI. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OVERVIEW

Patrick Ogawa, Chief Deputy with the Board of Supervisors (BOS)' Executive Office, gave a brief personal background summary and work history and explained his duties and responsibilities in the BOS Executive Office and with the Commission. He mentioned the direction of the BOS Executive Office towards automation as a priority and the new Customer Service Center for dissemination of information. He discussed the BOS Executive Office as an administrative arm and emphasized that with the new structure; the CEO is not an obstacle and has their doors open.

The Commissioners stressed that the Commission is a conduit for the community and information sharing and collaboration with Departments is essential. Commissioner Curry stated that the uniqueness of the Commission is that it does not fall into just one cluster. Chair Sorkin brought to the attention of the Commission that Sheila Shima, DCEO over the Health, Mental Health, and Public Health Cluster, is convening quarterly meetings beginning

in October, with the Chairs of five Children's Commissions: Children's Planning Council, ICAN, First 5, CCF, and the Childcare Policy Roundtable.

Patrick discussed changes in the Commission office such as funding, support staff cuts, and restrictions on operational costs. He also discussed changes in the Administrative duties and support for the Commission to a more efficient and effective system with positive outcomes and encouraged the Commission to seek other funding sources, if possible.

The Executive Director inquired about a mechanism for the Commission to address fiscal issues with DCFS and the Commission expressed concerns over DCFS controlling their budget. They stressed the need to maintain their independence from DCFS in order to remain effective. The discussion on the Commission budget will continue on October 20, 2008.

The Commissioners expressed a need for the Commission Chair to obtain annual training on the Executive Director's MAPP goals. Patrick stated that was not feasible at this time because the MAPP goals are being revised.

VII. DISCUSSION RE AUDIT OF COMMISSIONS

Commissioner Olivas opened a discussion of the Auditor-Controller's Draft Report on Commissions and gave a brief review of the report. He enumerated a few main elements of the report: 1) an overlap/duplication of services, 2) measuring effectiveness and furthering the goals of the County, 3) oversight over several clusters (broad focus). He recommended that the Commission become more goal-oriented and focus on how to fix problems. The Commissioners discussed changing the focus of Commission priorities and whether the Commission should pursue staying with the BOS Executive Office or move under the CEO. Some Commissioners were not clear as to the difference between the BOS Executive Office and the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and what impact moving to the CEO would have on the Commission, as well as how other Commissions were selected to either remain in the BOS Executive Office or move to the CEO. Chair Sorkin appointed Commissioner Kleinberg to take the lead in obtaining information regarding the history and factual relationships or policy functions of other Commissions that are staying under the BOS Executive Office. The Commission also discussed vehicles to address the issues; whether a letter is the best avenue, or whether the Commissioners should address their respective Board office, or whether they should first discuss the issue with Miguel Santana. An agreement on how to best address the issues was not reached.

VIII. COMMISSION EXERCISE

Commissioner Pedersen engaged the Commissioners in an icebreaker exercise called Differences & Similarities Bingo. The Commissioners were to ask each other questions to get to know their differences & similarities and check off boxes with the questions and the first person to get five horizontally, vertically or diagonally wins. Commissioner Worthy-Clayton won a beautiful gift basket.

IX. COMMISSION PRIORITIES FOR 2008-2009

Commission Chair Sorkin distributed a grid listing the current Commission Committees and other workgroups, their members, accomplishments, and goals. She asked the Commissioners to review the listing as they discussed the areas that the Commissioners are most passionate about and would like the Commission to focus on as their future priorities, with the following results:

Blending Funds – Trish Curry

Child Care – Ann Franzen

Child Fatality – Susan Friedman, Stacey Savelle

Childhood Obesity – Ann Franzen, Tina Pedersen

Children with Special Needs – Tina Pedersen

Client-Centered Case Management Approaches Through Integrated Services
and Best Practices – Helen Kleinberg

Education - Martha Trevino Powell

Faith-Based – Ann Franzen

Health & Wellness – Tina Pedersen

Infrastructure/Identify Core Issues and a Format/System
to Accomplish Goals - Trula Worthy-Clayton

Integration – Trish Curry, Nina Sorkin

Mental Health - Stacey Savelle

Mentoring – Stacey Savelle

Outcomes-DCFS implementing recommendations – Steven Olivas

Probation Youth Transfer to Children and Families' Well Being Cluster – Carol Biondi

Relative Care – Nina Sorkin

Systemic Change – Nina Sorkin

Transitional Age Youth (TAY) – Stacey Savelle

X. BREAK

XI. CONTINUATION OF COMMISSION PRIORITIES FOR 2008-2009

To Be Continued 10/20/08.

XII. PRESENTATION OF DRAFT 2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2007-2008 Draft Annual Report was distributed; although, due to a lack of time, it was not discussed.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

XIV. ADJOURN

Commission Chair Sorkin adjourned the meeting.